

PER

colour : with this we are supplied by the Dutch from their East Indian settlements in Java, Malabar and Sumatra, and the plant has the same heat and fiery taste that we find in the pepper : white pepper is commonly fictitious, and prepared from the black by taking off the outer bark, but there is a rarer sort, which is a genuine fruit naturally white : long pepper is a fruit gathered while unripe and dried, of an inch or an inch and half in length, and of the thickness of a large goose quill : it much resembles the catkins of some of our trees, and contains several seeds singly in small membranaceous cells, and these seeds are of an acrid, hot and bitterish taste : the whole fruit is of a brownish grey colour and cylindrick in its figure. *Hill.*

Scatter o'er the blooms the pungent dust
Of pepper, fatal to the frosty tribe. *Thomson's Spring.*

To PEPPER. *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To sprinkle with pepper.

2. To beat ; to mangle with shot or blows.
I have peppered two of them ; two I have paid, two rogues in buckram suits. *Shaksp. Henry IV.*

PEPPERBOX. *n. f.* [pepper and box.] A box for holding pepper. I will not take the leacher ; he cannot creep into a half-penny purse nor into a pepperbox. *Shaksp.*

PEPPER-CORN. *n. f.* [pepper and corn.] Any thing of inconsiderable value.

Our performances, though dues, are like those peppercorns which freeholders pay their landlord to acknowledge that they hold all from him. *Boyle.*

Folks from mud-wall'd tenement
Bring landlords peppercorn for rent. *Prior.*

PEPPERMINT. *n. f.* [pepper and mint.] Minteminently hot.

PEPPERWORT. *n. f.* [pepper and wort.] A plant.

Pepperwort hath a flower consisting of four leaves, which are placed in form of a cross, from whose cup arises the pistillum, which afterward becomes a spear-shaped fruit, which is divided in the middle by a partition into two cells, which contain many oblong seeds. *Miller.*

PEPTICK. *adj.* [πεπτικός.] What helps digestion. *Ans.*

PERACUTE. *n. f.* [peracutus, Lat.] Very sharp ; very violent.

Malign, continual peracute fevers, after most dangerous attacks, suddenly remit of the ardent heat. *Harvey.*

PERADVENTURE. *adv.* [per adventure, Fr.]

1. Perhaps ; may be ; by chance.

That wherein they might not be like unto either, was such peradventure as had been no whit less unlawful. *Hooker.*

As you return, visit my house ; let our old acquaintance be renew'd ; peradventure I will with you to court. *Shaksp.*

What peradventure may appear very full to me, may appear very crude and maimed to a stranger. *Digby.*

2. Doubt ; question. It is sometimes used as a noun, but not gracefully nor properly.

Though men's persons ought not to be hated, yet without all peradventure their practices justify may. *South.*

To PERAGRATE. *v. a.* [peragro, Lat.] To wander over ; to ramble through. *Diſt.*

PERAGRATION. *n. f.* [from peragrate.] The act of passing through any state or space.

A month of peragratiſm is the time of the moon's revolution from any part of the zodiac into the same again, and this containeth but twenty-seven days and eight hours. *Brown.*

The moon has two accounts which are her months or years of revolution ; one her periodic month, or month of peragratiſm, which chiefly respects her own proper motion or place in the zodiac, by which she like the sun performs her revolution round the zodiac from any one point to the same again. *Holder on Time.*

To PERAMBULATE. *v. a.* [perambulo, Lat.]

1. To walk through.

2. To survey, by passing through.

Persons the lord deputy should nominate to view and perambulate Irish territories, and thereupon to divide and limit the same. *Davies on Ireland.*

PERAMBULATION. *n. f.* [from perambulate.]

1. The act of passing through or wandering over.

The duke looked still for the coming back of the Armada, even when they were wandering and making their perambulation of the northern seas. *Bacon.*

2. A travelling survey.

France is a square of five hundred and fifty miles traverse, thronging with such multitudes, that the general calcul, made in the last perambulation exceeded eighteen millions. *Howel.*

PERCASE. *adv.* [par and case.] Perchance ; perhaps. Not used.

A virtuous man will be virtuous in solitude, and not only in theatro, though perchance it will be more strong by glory and fame, as an heat which is doubled by reflexion. *Bacon.*

PERCANT. *adj.* [percant, Fr.] Piercing ; penetrating.

Wonderous quick and percant was his spright
As eagle's eyes, that can behold the sun. *Fairy Queen.*

PERCEIVABLE. *adj.* [from perceive.] Perceptible ; such as falls under perception.

The body, though it really moves, yet not changing perceivable distance with some other bodies, as fast as the ideas of our own minds will follow one another, seems to stand still ; as the hands of clocks. *Locke.*

That which we perceive when we see figure, as perceivable by sight, is nothing but the termination of colour. *Locke.*

PERCEIVABLY. *adv.* [from perceivable.] In such a manner as may be observed or known.

To PERCEIVE. *v. a.* [percipio, Lat.]

1. To discover by some sensible effects.

Consider,
When you above perceive me like a crow,
That it is place which lessens and sets off. *Shaksp.*

2. To know ; to observe.

Jesus perceived in his spirit, that they so reasoned within themselves.

His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not ; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not. *Job xiv. 21.*

'Till we ourselves see it with our own eyes, and perceive it by our own understandings, we are still in the dark. *Locke.*

How do they come to know that themselves think, when they themselves do not perceive it. *Locke.*

3. To be affected by.

The upper regions of the air perceive the collection of the matter of tempests before the air here below. *Bacon.*

PERCEPTIBILITY. *n. f.* [from perceptible.]

1. The state of being an object of the senses or mind ; the state of being perceptible.

2. Perception ; the power of perceiving.

The illumination is not so bright and fulgent, as to obscure or extinguish all perceptibility of the reason. *More.*

PERCEPTIBLE. *adj.* [perceptibile, Fr. perceptus, Lat.] Such as may be known or observed.

No sound is produced but with a perceptible blast of the air, and with some resistance of the air strucken. *Bacon.*

When I think, remember or abstract ; these intricate operations of my mind are not perceptible by my sight, hearing, taste, smell or feeling. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

It perceives them immediately, as being immediately objected to and perceptible to the sense ; as I perceive the sun by my sight. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

In the anatomy of the mind, as in that of the body, more good will accrue to mankind by attending to the large, open and perceptible parts, than by studying too much finer nerves. *Pope's Essay on Man.*

PERCEPTIBLY. *adv.* [from perceptible.] In such a manner as may be perceived.

The woman decays perceptibly every week. *Pope.*

PERCEPTION. *n. f.* [perception, Fr. perceptio, Lat.]

1. The power of perceiving ; knowledge ; consciousness.

Matter hath no life nor perception, and is not conscious of its own existence. *Bentley's Sermons.*

Perception is that act of the mind, or rather a passion or impression, whereby the mind becomes conscious of any thing ; as when I feel hunger, thirst, cold or heat. *Wait.*

2. The act of perceiving ; observation.

3. Notion ; idea.

By the inventors, and their followers that would seem not to come too short of the perceptions of the leaders, they are magnified. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

4. The state of being affected by something.

Great mountains have a perception of the disposition of the air to tempests sooner than the valleys below ; and therefore they lay in Wales, where certain hills have their night caps on, they mean mischief. *Bacon.*

This experiment discovereth perception in plants to move towards that which should comfort them, though at a distance. *Bacon's Natural History.*

PERCEPTIVE. *adj.* [perceptus, Lat.] Having the power of perceiving.

There is a difficulty that pincheth : the soul is awake and solicited by external motions, for some of them reach the perceptive region in the most silent repose and obscurity of night : what is it then that prevents our sensations ? *Glauvil.*

Whatever the least real point of the essence of the perceptive part of the soul does perceive, every real point of the perceptive must perceive at once. *More's Divine Dialogues.*

PERCEPTIVITY. *n. f.* [from perceptive.] The power of perception or thinking. *Locke.*

PERCH. *n. f.* [perca, Lat. perche, Fr.]

The perch is one of the fishes of prey, that, like the pike and trout, carries his teeth in his mouth, he dare venture to kill and destroy several other kinds of fish : he has a hooked kill or hog back, which is armed with stiff bristles, and all his skin armed with thick hard scales, and hath two fins on his back : he spawns but once a year, and is held very nutritive. *Walton's Angler.*

PERCH. *n. f.* [perica, Lat. perche, Fr.]

1. A measure of five yards and a half ; a pole.

2. [perche, Fr.] Something on which birds roost or sit.

For the narrow perch I cannot ride. *Dryden.*

To PERCH. *v. n.* [percher, Fr. from the noun.] To sit or roost as a bird.

He perched on some branch thereby,
To weather him and his moist wings to dry. *Spenser.*

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The world is grown so bad,
That wrens make prey, where eagles dare not perch. *Shaksp.*

The morning mules perch like birds, and sing
Among his branches. *Craſhaw.*

Let owls keep close within the tree, and not perch upon the upper boughs. *South's Sermons.*

They wing'd their flight aloft, then stooping low,
Perch'd on the double tree, that bears the golden bough. *Dry.*

Glory like the trembling eagle stood
And the pale fates stood frighted on the shore. *Lee.*

Hoſts of birds that wing the liquid air,
Perch'd in the boughs, had nightly lodging there. *Dryden.*

To PERCH. *v. a.* To place on a perch.

It would be notoriously perceptible, if you could perch yourself as a bird on the top of some high steeple. *More.*

As evening dragon came,
Affailant on the perch'd roofs,
And nests in order rang'd
Of some villatic fowl. *Milton's Agonistes.*

PERCHANCE. *adv.* [per and chance.] Perhaps ; peradventure.

How long within this wood intend you stay ? —
Perchance till after Theſeus' wedding day. *Shaksp.*

Finding him by nature little studious, the chuse rather to endure him with ornaments of youth ; as dancing and fencing, not without aim then perchance at a courtier's life. *Watton.*

Only Smithfield ballad perchance to embalm the memory of the other. *L'Eſtrange.*

PERCHERS. *n. f.* Paris candles used in England in ancient times ; also the larger sort of wax candles, which were usually set upon the altar. *Bailey.*

PERCIPIENT. *adj.* [percipiens, Lat.] Perceiving ; having the power of perception.

No article of religion hath credibility enough for them ; and yet these cautious and quicksighted gentlemen can wink and swallow down this foolish opinion about percipient atoms. *Bentley's Sermons.*

Sensation and perception are not inherent in matter as such ; for if it were so, every flock or stone would be a percipient and rational creature. *Bentley's Sermons.*

PERCIPIENT. *n. f.* One that has the power of perceiving.

The soul is the sole percipient, which hath animadversion and sense properly so called, and the body is only the receiver of corporeal impressions. *Glauville's Sept.*

Nothing in the extended percipient perceives the whole, but only part. *More's Divine Dialogues.*

PERCLOSE. *n. f.* [per and close.] Conclusion ; last part.

By the perclose of the same verse, vagabond is understood for such an one as travelleth in fear of revengement. *Raleigh.*

To PERCOLATE. *v. a.* [percolo, Lat.] To strain.

The evidences of fact are percolated through a vast period of ages. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

PERCOLATION. *n. f.* [from percolate.] The act of straining ; purification or separation by straining.

Experiments touching the straining and passing of bodies one through another, they call percolation. *Bacon.*

Water passing through the veins of the earth is rendered fresh and potable, which it cannot be by any percolations we can make, but the saline particles will pass through a tenfold filter. *Ray on the Creation.*

To PERCUSS. *v. a.* [percutio, Lat.] To strike.

Flame percussed by air giveth a noise ; as in blowing of the fire by bellows ; and so likewise flame percussing the air strongly. *Bacon's Natural History.*

PERCUSSION. *n. f.* [percutio, Lat. percussio, Fr.]

1. The act of striking ; stroke.

With thy grim looks, and
The thunder-like percussio of thy fouds,
Thou mad'st thine enemies shake. *Shaksp.*

The percussio of the greater quantity of air is produced by the greatness of the body percussing. *Bacon.*

Some note, that the times when the stroke or percussio of an envious eye doth most hurt are, when the party envied is beheld in glory.

The vibrations or tremors excited in the air by percussio, continue a little time to move from the place of percussio in concentric spheres to great distances. *Newton's Opticks.*

Marbles taught him percussio and the laws of motion, and tops the centrifugal motion. *Pope and Arbuthnot's Scriblerus.*

2. Effect of sound in the ear.

In double rhymes the percussio is stronger. *Rymer.*

PERCUTIENT. *n. f.* [percutions, Latin.] Striking ; having the power to strike.

Inequality of sounds is accidental, either from the roughness or obliquity of the passage, or from the doubling of the percipient. *Bacon.*

PERDITION. *n. f.* [perditio, Lat. perdition, Fr.]

1. Destruction ; ruin ; death.

Upon tidings now arriv'd, importing the meer perdition of the Turkish sleet, every man puts himself in triumph. *Shaksp.*

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